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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS BRANCH

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT -- DECEMBER 1945

The list of commodities covered in the monthly survey on the adequacy of food supplies has been shortened considerably. Instead of 102 commodities, only 57 items are now included within the scope of the survey. All major foods are still surveyed, however; the list of items was cut down chiefly by eliminating some lesser canned foods, all spreads and baby foods, and some unrationed items for which distribution problems are not expected to arise, and also by simplifying the breakdown of meats by cuts. On the other hand, the list of frozen foods covered by the survey has been expanded because of the interest of the trade and Government agencies in this newly developing field.

The 208 reports as summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered by field representatives during the first week of December at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct contacts with the food trade. The reports were distributed among the five regions as follows: Northeast 30, Midwest 63, South 47, Southwest 35, and West 33.

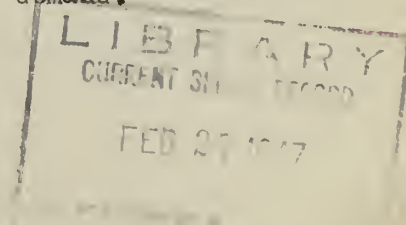
The analysis as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I gives a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II gives percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups: generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation rather than on quantitative measures. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing the regional and U. S. totals. Thus shortage situations or differences between regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food situation in 30 selected localities.

With a view to simplification, the categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey have been reduced from four to three, and new definitions drawn up for these three to adapt the survey to post-war conditions without rationing. The three categories are defined as follows:

Scarce: Supply is less than three-quarters of current demand.

Adequate: Supply more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of such demand to cause excessive inventories.

Surplus: Able to obtain supplies in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand.



PART I - ADEQUACY OF FOOD SUPPLIES

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Canned Fruits: The movement into the market of the new pack of the four major canned fruits continued to be slow, with available supplies considerably smaller than consumer demand in early December. Peaches were more readily available than fruit cocktail, pears, or pineapple. The last two items were in short supply in practically all areas throughout the country.

Canned Juices: Supplies of grapefruit and tomato juices were reported fully adequate to meet demands in early December. As compared with the previous month, grapefruit juice was in better supply, tomato juice in slightly shorter supply. There was no material change in the situation for pineapple juice, which continued scarce everywhere. Orange juice and apple juice, which continued scarce everywhere. Orange juice and blended orange-grapefruit juices, which were included in this survey for the first time this month, were in over-all plentiful supply, with the former reported scarce in a slightly smaller proportion of areas than the latter.

Canned Vegetables: Snap beans, corn and peas were reported in abundant supply in most areas in all regions, with all but peas registering an improvement since early November. Canned tomatoes continued in short supply, two thirds of areas unable to meet demands, the same general situation that has prevailed for the past six months.

Frozen Foods: Frozen apricots, peaches and strawberries, all surveyed this month for the first time, were reported generally scarce. Strawberries were the least plentiful of these in relation to current demand. In the frozen vegetable group, lima beans were still in generally short supply in all parts of the country, while stocks of peas, spinach, snap beans and cut corn were at a more satisfactory level, generally, although distribution was spotty.

Other Fruits and Vegetables: The recent steady increase in areas with inadequate supplies of all dried foods was checked during the past month. Prunes were available in sufficient quantities to meet demands in two-fifths of reporting areas, double the November figure. Raisins and dry beans were in overall short supply despite the slight improvement registered during November. Fresh oranges continued in plentiful supply everywhere, with a decrease since early November in the number of areas reporting a surplus. The same was true of Irish potatoes. Cabbage, a new item in this survey, was in adequate supply with a few areas reporting surpluses.

MEATS, FATS, AND OTHER ITEMS

Meats: Beef was reported less plentiful in early December than in the previous two months, but supplies were still adequate to meet unrationed demand in about two-thirds of all areas. The decrease was greater for steaks and roasts than for hamburger. Veal was in generally good supply but a slight increase in the proportion of shortage areas was registered during the past months. Supplies of lamb continued adequate in 56 percent of reporting areas, a slightly smaller percentage than in the preceding two months. The recent seasonal upswing in hog

slaughter resulted in a sharp increase in the proportion of areas reporting adequate supplies of fresh pork cuts. Although practically none of the areas reported adequate supplies of any fresh pork item during the period from February to November, the proportion of areas now reporting these items as adequate varies from 20 percent for fresh loin to 24 percent for fresh hams and shoulder. Salted fat cuts, included in this survey for the first time, were at about the same supply level as fresh pork items. Cured ham and shoulder and bacon, continued scarce in most areas despite a slight improvement during the past month. Cold cuts, such as bologna and salami, were slightly less plentiful than recently but still in generally good supply. Stocks of canned meats were adequate to meet demand in one-third of all areas, a sharp increase over November and the highest figure registered during 1945.

Fish: Fresh and frozen fish were reported as adequate in almost two-thirds of all areas, the highest proportion reported since this item was included in this survey in February 1945. Three major types of canned fish--salmon, tuna, and sardines--were reported in slightly better supply than in recent months, but continued scarce in most areas in all parts of the country.

Dairy Products: The current scarcity of butter, caused by seasonally low production of milk and by an above-normal use of fluid milk and cream, is reflected in a marked decrease in the proportion of areas with adequate supplies of butter. This proportion stood at 29 percent in early December as compared with 60 percent a month before. Cheeses were also in shorter supply, with only 29 percent of the areas able to meet all demands as compared with 36 to 54 percent in early November. Supplies of evaporated milk continued generally adequate.

Fats and Oils: The unsatisfied demand for butter apparently contributed to an increase in the demand for margarine, and a shift of 10 percentage points from the "adequate" column to the "scarce" occurred during November. However, supplies were still adequate in two-thirds of all areas. Lard was available in amounts sufficient to meet demand in 16 percent of the areas as against 11 percent in early November, but shortening and salad oils continued scarce in almost all areas. Supplies of soaps other than toilet continued tight everywhere.

Other Items: The shortage of sugar, in relation to rationed demand, appeared to be less severe in early December, but the hard-hit Northeast still reported a general scarcity. In all other regions at least four-fifths of the areas were in good supply and scattered surpluses were reported, chiefly in the South and Southwest. This may be explained largely by the approach of the end of the ration period and the fact that demand is limited because most of the household ration stamps already have been used. Nationally, 77 percent of the areas reported an adequate or surplus supply, as compared with 62 percent in early November and 45 percent the previous month. There may be some temporary scarcities in sections now reporting generally adequate supplies when the new sugar ration coupon becomes valid on January 1. In the Northeast, the situation probably will worsen in January since demand will increase sharply probably without a corresponding increase in supplies.

Demand for eggs continued strong in relation to available supplies, and slightly over one-half of the areas reported supplies as scarce. Chicken was reported in very plentiful supply, with 11 percent of the areas reporting a surplus. Most of these surplus reports were from the Northeast. Rice supplies more nearly equaled demand than at any time since June. However, the rice situation is still very tight and much worse than a year ago when 74 percent of the areas reported rice as adequate. This December only 41 percent of the areas reported adequate supplies of rice.

PART III -- NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION BY COMMODITIES

1. FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) -- reported scarce by at least one-third of the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Scarce Supplies

| | <u>U.S. Total</u> | <u>NE.</u> | <u>MW.</u> | <u>S.</u> | <u>SW.</u> | <u>W.</u> |
|---|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| <u>Fruits & Vegetables</u> | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit cocktail | 80 | 83 | 82 | 89 | 74 | 64 |
| Canned peaches | 69 | 93 | 56 | 79 | 80 | 48 |
| Canned pears | 94 | 100 | 97 | 100 | 97 | 76 |
| Canned pineapple | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 97 | 94 |
| Canned pineapple juice | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 97 |
| Canned tomatoes | 67 | 90 | 56 | 64 | 71 | 70 |
| Frozen apricots | 63 | 73 | 54 | 77 | 66 | 47 |
| Frozen peaches | 65 | 87 | 54 | 77 | 76 | 40 |
| Frozen strawberries | 79 | 90 | 78 | 81 | 69 | 73 |
| Frozen beans, lima | 72 | 73 | 72 | 84 | 72 | 53 |
| Dried prunes | 61 | 83 | 50 | 62 | 62 | 63 |
| Raisins | 72 | 73 | 65 | 79 | 79 | 69 |
| Dried beans | 79 | 83 | 72 | 96 | 66 | 75 |
| <u>Meats, Fish, Fats & Oils, & Dairy Products</u> | | | | | | |
| Pork: loin chops & roasts | 76 | 90 | 68 | 74 | 79 | 75 |
| Ham & shoulder, fresh | 80 | 90 | 71 | 81 | 85 | 81 |
| Ham & shoulder, cured | 92 | 93 | 89 | 92 | 100 | 88 |
| Salted fat cuts | 78 | 87 | 61 | 79 | 91 | 84 |
| Bacon | 96 | 100 | 93 | 98 | 100 | 94 |
| Canned meats | 68 | 57 | 52 | 89 | 82 | 59 |
| Canned salmon | 96 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 97 | 85 |
| Canned tuna | 91 | 94 | 90 | 92 | 97 | 85 |
| Canned sardines | 91 | 97 | 94 | 83 | 97 | 85 |
| Butter | 71 | 97 | 50 | 68 | 79 | 79 |
| Cheese | 71 | 80 | 77 | 55 | 79 | 64 |
| Lard | 84 | 73 | 82 | 92 | 88 | 82 |
| Shortening | 97 | 93 | 98 | 98 | 100 | 94 |
| Salad oils | 96 | 93 | 98 | 94 | 100 | 94 |
| Soap: bar laundry | 99 | 93 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Flakes & granules | 98 | 100 | 100 | 96 | 100 | 94 |
| Washing powder | 97 | 100 | 100 | 92 | 97 | 97 |
| <u>Miscellaneous</u> | | | | | | |
| Rice | 59 | 67 | 62 | 55 | 62 | 52 |

2. FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE (B) -- reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than two-thirds of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 percent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 percent or more. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

| Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | <u>U.S. Total</u> | <u>N.E.</u> | <u>M.W.</u> | <u>S.</u> | <u>S.W.</u> | <u>W.</u> |
| <u>Fruits & Vegetables</u> | | | | | | |
| Grapefruit Juice | 88 | 87 | 87 | 92 | 100 | 76 |
| Orange Juice | 88 | 83 | 81 | 87 | 91 | 100 |
| Orange & Grapefruit Blended Juice | 83 | 72 | 80 | 84 | 100 | 87 |
| Canned Peas | 91 | 83 | 90 | 100 | 83 | 94 |
| Tomato Juice | 89 | 83 | 89 | 94 | 86 | 94 |
| Oranges, Fresh | 95 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 80 | 100 |
| Potatoes, Irish | 99* | 96 | 100** | 100 | 97* | 100 |
| Cabbage | 99 | 100 | 100 | 97 | 100 | 100 |
| <u>Meats, Fish, Fats & Oils, & Dairy Products</u> | | | | | | |
| Evaporated Milk | 90 | 93* | 95* | 81 | 85 | 94 |
| Chicken | 91* | 93** | 100 | 85 | 85 | 88* |

3. FOODS THAT ARE UNBALANCED (U) -- reported adequate or surplus in more than two-thirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

| Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | <u>U.S. Total</u> | <u>N.E.</u> | <u>M.W.</u> | <u>S.</u> | <u>S.W.</u> | <u>W.</u> |
| <u>Fruits & Vegetables</u> | | | | | | |
| Canned beans, green & wax | 84 | 77 | 89 | 96 | 89 | 64 |
| Canned corn | 77 | 77 | 92 | 72 | 60 | 76 |
| Frozen beans, snap | 60 | 52 | 73 | 49 | 37 | 83 |
| Frozen corn, cut | 51 | 50 | 60 | 33 | 43 | 63 |
| Frozen peas | 58 | 53 | 68 | 44 | 59 | 70 |
| Frozen spinach | 67 | 76 | 76 | 54 | 47 | 80 |
| <u>Meats, etc.</u> | | | | | | |
| Beef, Steaks | 64 | 30 | 70 | 47 | 77 | 97 |
| Beef, Roasts | 65 | 33 | 73 | 47 | 77 | 97 |
| Beef, Hamburger | 76 | 60 | 77 | 64 | 83 | 100 |
| Veal, Steak, Chops & Roasts | 70 | 37 | 71 | 60 | 94 | 84 |
| Lamb, Steak, Chops & Roasts | 56 | 23 | 64 | 49 | 69 | 66 |
| Cold Cuts, Bologna, etc. | 74 | 67 | 89 | 80 | 54 | 69 |
| Fish, fresh & frozen | 64 | 52 | 77 | 72 | 43 | 57 |
| Margarine | 67 | 79 | 70 | 70 | 71 | 39 |
| <u>Miscellaneous</u> | | | | | | |
| Sugar | 77 | 10 | 89 | 87* | 79 | 97 |
| Eggs, shell | 47 | 30 | 71 | 36 | 38 | 45 |

PART III - LOCAL SITUATIONS

(Items are adequate unless indicated otherwise as follows: A = Scarce, C = Surplus, N = No Answer. Letters in parentheses after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) = Generally Scarce, (B) = Generally Adequate, (U) = Unbalanced.)

| | Balti- | Bos- | Buf- | Hart- | New | Phil- | Port- | Cui- | Cleve- | De- | Mil- | Omaha, | St. | At- | Char- |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|-------|
| | more, | ton, | falo, | ford, | York, | adel- | land, | cago, | land, | troit, | wau- | Neb. | Louis, | lan- | les- |
| | Md. | Mass. | N. Y. | Conn. | N. Y. | phia, | Me. | Ill. | Ohio | Mich. | kee, | Wis. | Mo. | ta, | ton, |
| | | | | | | Pa. | | | | | | | | Ga. | S. C. |
| Fruit cocktail (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Peaches (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Pears (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Pineapple (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Grapefruit juice (B) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Orange juice (B) | N | N | | | | | | | | | N | N | | | |
| Orange-grapefruit juice (B) | | | | | | | | | | | N | N | | | |
| Pineapple juice (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Beans green & wax (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomatoes (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Tom-to juice (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Frozen apricots (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| peaches (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| strawberries (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| beans, lima (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| beans, snap (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| corn, cut (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| peas (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| spinach (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dried prunes (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raisins (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Dry beans (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Oranges (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potatoes, Irish (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Balti' | Bos-' | Buf-' | Hart-' | New | Phil-' | Port-' | Chi-' | Cleve-' | De-' | Mil-' | Omaha,' | St.' | 'at-' | Char-' |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| | 'more,' | 'ton,' | 'falo,' | 'ford,' | 'York,' | 'adel-' | 'land,' | 'cago,' | 'land,' | 'troit,' | 'wau-' | 'Neb.' | 'Louis,' | 'lan-' | 'les-' |
| | 'Md.' | 'Mass.' | 'N. Y.' | 'Conn.' | 'N. Y.' | 'phia,' | 'Me.' | 'Ill.' | 'Chic.' | 'Mich.' | 'kee,' | 'Mo.' | 'ta,' | 'Ga.' | 'S. C.' |
| Beef: steak (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| roast (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| hamburger (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Veal: steaks, chops & roasts (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lamb: steaks, chops & roasts (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pork: loin, chops & roasts (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ham & shoulder, fresh (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ham & shoulder, cured (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| salted fat cuts (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bacon (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cold cuts, bologna (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canned meats (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fish, fresh & frozen (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canned: salmon (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| tuna (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| sardines (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butter (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cheese (all types) (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evaporated milk (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Margarine (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lard (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shortening (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Saled oils (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bar laundry soap (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flakes & granules (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washing powder (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugar (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs, shell (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicken (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice (A) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Jack- 'ville, 'ville, 'Fla. | Louis- 'ville, 'Tenn., 'Ky. | Mem- 'phis, 'Ala. | Mo- 'bile, 'Va. | Nor- 'folk, 'Tex. | Fort 'Worth, 'Colo. | Den- 'ver, 'Tex. | Hous- 'ton, 'Tex. | New 'Or- 'leans, 'La. | Los 'Ange- 'les, 'Cal. | Phoe- 'nix, 'Ariz. | Port- 'land, 'Ore. | Salt 'Lake 'City, 'Utah | San 'Fran- 'cisco, 'Cal. | Seat- 'tle, 'Wash. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fruit cocktail (A) | A | A | | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | | A | A | A |
| Peaches (A) | A | A | | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | | A | A | A |
| Pears (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | | A | A | A |
| Pineapple (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | | A | A | | | A | A | A |
| Grapefruit juice (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Orange juice (B) | | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | C |
| Orange-grapefruit juice (B) | | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | A |
| Pineapple juice (A) | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Beans green & wax (U) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn (U) | | C | | | | | | | | | | | | | A |
| Peas (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | A |
| Tomatoes (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | A |
| Tomato juice (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Frozen apricots (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| peaches (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| strawberries (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| beans, lima (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| beans, snap (U) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| corn, cut (U) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| peas (U) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| spinach (U) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dried prunes (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Relkins (A) | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry beans (A) | A | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oranges (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potatoes, Irish (B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage (B) | | N | | | | | | N | N | N | | | | N | C |

[illegible]

